

***Physaria didymocarpa* (Hook.) Gray**
var. *didymocarpa*
common twinpod
Cruciferae (Mustard Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G5T4S1

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1964): Heavy-rooted perennial, often with a branched caudex, silvery-stellate, the hairs not closely appressed. Stems usually many, somewhat decumbent based, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 7 inches long. Basal leaves numerous, rosulate, withering but still persistent, $\frac{3}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, the blades obovate or broadly oblanceolate to somewhat rhombic or even ovate, mostly obtuse, usually with a few inconspicuous to prominent teeth or entire, narrowed rather gradually to broad, winged, and mostly toothed, petiole-like bases about as long as the blades. Cauline leaves several, reduced, mostly oblanceolate and entire. Racemes somewhat closely flowered. Pedicels slender to rather stout, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, ascending, straight or somewhat curved but not sigmoid. Lateral sepals not saccate at the base. Petals yellow, broadly spatulate-obovate, $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. Silicles much-inflated, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long and at least as broad, twin-like, the base very slightly cordate, the apical sinus narrow, nearly closed, $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch deep. Valves of the silicles $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. Replum obovate or oblanceolate, more nearly obtuse than acute at the apex, $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch broad. Style $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ inch long. Seeds 2-3 per locule.

Identification Tips: In Washington, this taxon could be confused with other members of the genus *Physaria*. Key characters to pay attention to are the size and shape of the silicles, the length of the replum, and the overall shape of the leaves.

Phenology: Identifiable June through August.

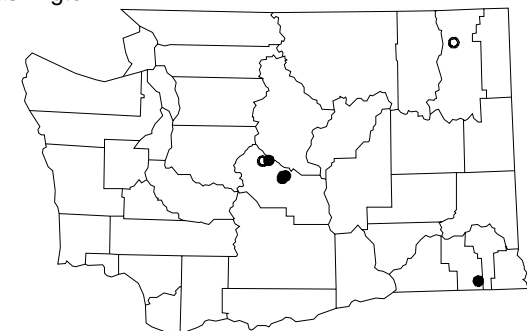
Range: Peripheral in Washington; Rocky Mountains of Alberta, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. In Washington, the taxon has historically been reported from Stevens County in the Okanogan Highlands physiographic province and more recently from Columbia County in the Blue Mountains. Recent reports of the taxon from Kittitas County have been determined to be mis-identifications.

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Known distribution of
Physaria didymocarpa var.
didymocarpa in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Habitat: The species occurs in a variety of habitats, including river gravel bars, steep shale outcrops, rocky flats, gravelly prairies, talus slopes, dry hillsides, and road cuts. The elevation at the reported site in Columbia County is 5200-5400 feet.

Ecology: In Washington, the only recently reported site for this taxon is a very well-drained, gravelly saddle and adjacent slopes. The overall vegetation cover is relatively low. Occurs with *Agropyron spicatum*, *Sedum stenopetalum*, *Lomatium grayi*, *Eriogonum umbellatum*, *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* var. *nanus*, and *Chaenactis douglasii* var. *glandulosa*.

State Status Comments: The taxon has only been reported once in recent years. However, there is a lot of unsurveyed habitat within the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness Area for this taxon.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed in both the southeastern and northeastern corners of the state in appropriate habitats.

Threats and Management Concerns: Ground disturbing activities such as timber harvesting and mining are threats to the species.

References:

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 2: Salicaceae to Saxifragaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 597 pp.

Rollins, R.C. 1993. *The Cruciferae of Continental North America*. I-XVI, 1-976. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA.